

HOUSE COMMEMORATION NO. 1035

Introduced by: Representatives Gillespie and Dykstra and Senator Broderick

A LEGISLATIVE COMMEMORATION, Honoring Alcester-Hudson Elementary School for being named as a No Child Left Behind Blue Ribbon School for 2005.

WHEREAS, upon receiving notice in 2001 from the South Dakota Department of Education that their school would be placed in the "school improvement" category, Alcester-Hudson Elementary School's students, teachers, and administrators undertook a successful effort to improve their school's testing acumen. In order to facilitate change, the district created a School Improvement Leadership Team comprised of teachers, administrators, parents, and community members, and consulted with Mid-Continent Research for Education and Learning for assistance in developing a plan of action; and

WHEREAS, the Alcester-Hudson Elementary School teachers cooperated to ensure daily, uninterrupted instruction in language arts and mathematics and utilized professional development to ensure that all teachers were consistent in their use of curriculum, along with "Teacher Team Meetings," or professional development opportunities held during the school day in which school and education issues were discussed and professional learning activities were adopted, thereby solidifying the "Team" feeling at the school; and

WHEREAS, the result of this hard work is evident in the superb testing scores of the student body of Alcester-Hudson Elementary, which has scored between 93 percent and 100 percent on all-school proficiency the last three years in both reading and mathematics, with the monumental efforts of the third and fourth grade students who have alone attained 100 percent proficiency in both reading and mathematics for three continuous years. The district leadership and administrative officials had the foresight and desire necessary to create a sound strategy for improving teaching methods and creating professional learning activities that serve as true models of success for our public schools. This honor was bestowed upon only 246 public schools throughout the United States, with only two other schools being chosen from South Dakota:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT COMMEMORATED, by the Eighty-first Legislature of the State of South Dakota, that Alcester-Hudson Elementary School be commended for educational excellence in being named a No Child Left Behind Blue Ribbon School for 2005.